



TRIBUTE TO
PROFESSOR FRANCIS TRINDADE

Francis Trindade graduated with an LLB from Karachi University, BA (Hons), MA from Oxford University, and a Diploma in Comparative Law from Strasbourg. He commenced his academic career as an Assistant Lecturer in the Faculty of Law, University of Singapore in 1963 and was promoted to Lecturer in 1966. In that same year, Francis took up his appointment as Lecturer in Law at Monash University. He was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1968, Associate Professor in 1977 and was Acting Professor from 1982 to 1986. He was appointed the Sir Owen Dixon Professor of Law in 1987 and held that Chair with distinction till his retirement in 2002.

Professor Trindade's principal teaching and research interest was the law of torts. His best known work which he first co-authored with Peter Cane is *The Law of Torts in Australia* (Oxford University Press, first published in 1985). The fourth edition is co-authored with Peter Cane and Mark Lunney. That book remains the leading Australian work in the field and the first point of reference for students, scholars and practitioners of torts law. Francis also published many specialist articles on torts law, notably defamation, trespass to the person, liability for the infliction of nervous shock and the role of compensation schemes as an alternative to tort law litigation. These articles were published in the leading international scholarly journals and frequently cited by courts throughout the common law world. Francis's eminent scholarship enabled the Faculty of Law of Monash University to attain an enduring reputation for leadership in the field of torts law.

The other major scholarly contribution of Francis has been his longstanding work on the constitutional law of Malaysia. He was co-editor with Tun Mohamed Suffian and H P Lee of *The Constitution of Malaysia – Its Development 1957-1977* (Oxford University Press, 1978) and with H P Lee of the successor volume, *The Constitution of Malaysia – Further Perspectives and Developments* (Oxford University Press, 1986). The establishment of the *Tun Suffian Public Lecture Series* – a series funded by the proceeds which would otherwise have been payable to the contributors to the two volumes of essays by way of royalties – contributed to the enhancement of the position of Monash University in Malaysia.

Francis maintained longstanding ties with Oxford University, where he was a Visitor at both Corpus Christi and Balliol College, and the National University of Singapore where he served as the David Marshall Visiting Professor of Law in 1999.

Professor Trindade retired from Monash University on 25 September 2002 but he continued to contribute to the Faculty's teaching program in a sessional capacity until mid-2007. During his long period of service he helped to foster the reputation of the Faculty of Law of Monash University.